



DETECTIVE ARTWORK

ARTIST Avril Vellacott from Teddington has filled the sad niche left at Normansfield Hospital — also in Teddington, left when the bust of its founder was stolen a few years ago.

She has a new portrait sculpture of Doctor John Langdon-Down which took some detective work to find out exactly what he looked like.

Teacher and sculptor Avril was asked to create the replacement as a way of saying thank you to staff and residents for hosting the Teddington artists' annual show in their magnificent Victorian theatre.

Dr Langdon-Down was born in 1823,

and had a special interest in Mongolism (now called Down's Syndrome) which earned him international recognition.

Avril had to find out what the great medic looked like! She used old photos of the stolen bust, and she sought out a descendant of the doctor, Mr Tony Langdon-Down, whose bone structure carries many of the family traits.

See the bust, plus paintings, drawings, prints, models and jewellery from Friday to Sunday, October 15, 16, 17 at Normansfield hospital in the third Teddington Artists Exhibition.

Details from 081-943 3712.

At Stampex 1985 I bought two items, from the same dealer, which had the perfin "DOWN". Both were to Messrs Merriman and Gwillim, Marlborough (anyone know their business?) although the dates were 1903 and 1907 respectively. The 1903 item was an unidentified envelope with 1d E7 postmarked Kingston-on Thames. At 50p I felt I had been overcharged at the time! The second item was a perforated postal stationery card, dated 1907, again postmarked Kingston-on-Thames. Although there was no official printed name on the card, the message was signed R. Lanyon-Down (as I thought) and there was a hand-stamped 'Normansfield, Hampton Wick' in violet on the top of the card. I reported these facts to Tony Edwards, who was the catalogue editor at the time, and the

identity appeared in the Bulletin. At the time I did not realise that the two dies were different. The 1d E7 is D3680.02 and the perforated postal stationery card is D3680.03.

BERT JOHNSON has sent the news item, illustrated on the previous page, from the 'SURREY HERALD' of 1-10-93 which gives some background to DOWN. It appears that the 'y' in the signature was really a 'g' and the name is LANGDON-DOWN. My guess for "DOWN" was as good as the guess for the 'Art Work' in the article.

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